

Tricia sat on the steps of her house. It was a hot summer day and Tricia did not want to stay indoors. The house was hot, and Tricia's baby sister had been crying all morning. Tricia felt lonely inside. "If only I had a friend to play with," Tricia thought.

Just then Tricia saw a shadow fall over the steps. Tricia looked up and saw a girl standing next to her. "Hi, my name is Julie," said the girl. "Do you want to play a game with me?" "What kind of game?" asked Tricia. She noticed that Julie was holding a big tin can in her hand. "Well, I have a game that will make lots of other kids want to come play with us," said Julie. "The name of the game is kick-the-can."

Tricia had never heard of a game called kick-the-can. She certainly did not see how that silly old can would make other kids want to come play with them. Still, Tricia was lonely and was glad for any company. "OK, I'll go play kick-the-can with you," said Tricia.

Tricia and Julie walked to an old dirt lot down the road. Julie set the can down in the middle of the lot and sat on it. "Now, you run and hide while I count to ten," said Julie. "When I finish counting to ten, I have to come find you. If you sneak up while I am looking for you and kick the can, then you win a point."

Julie put her head down and began to count to ten. Tricia ran and hid behind a garbage can. Julie quit counting to ten and began to walk around looking for Tricia. Soon Tricia saw her chance and ran across the lot. She kicked the can as far as she could. "Ah, you got a point," said Julie.

Just then Sam and Jon came up the street. When they saw what the girls were playing, they asked if they could join in. Soon other kids from up the street came to play kick-the-can with Tricia and Julie.

As Julie and Tricia were walking home that night, Tricia asked Julie a question. "How did you know that other kids would come play kick the can with us?" she asked. "Well, kick-the-can is a really fun game," Julie said. "As soon as you get a game started, others want to join in." Tricia was glad to meet such a wise friend. She did not feel lonely any more.

Tricia sat on the steps of her house. It was a hot summer day	14
and Tricia did not want to stay indoors. The house was hot, and	27
Tricia's baby sister had been crying all morning. Tricia felt lonely	38
inside. "If only I had a friend to play with," Tricia thought.	50
Just then Tricia saw a shadow fall over the steps. Tricia looked	62
up and saw a girl standing next to her. "Hi, my name is Julie," said the	78
girl. "Do you want to play a game with me?" "What kind of game?"	92
asked Tricia. She noticed that Julie was holding a big tin can in her	106
hand. "Well, I have a game that will make lots of other kids want to	121
come play with us," said Julie. "The name of the game is kick-the-	135
can."	136
Tricia had never heard of a game called kick-the-can. She	148
certainly did not see how that silly old can would make other kids want	162
to come play with them. Still, Tricia was lonely and was glad for any	176
company. "OK, I'll go play kick-the-can with you," said Tricia.	188
Tricia and Julie walked to an old dirt lot down the road. Julie set	202
the can down in the middle of the lot and sat on it. "Now, you run and	219
hide while I count to ten," said Julie. "When I finish counting to ten, I	234
have to come find you. If you sneak up while I am looking for you and	250
kick the can, then you win a point."	258
Julie put her head down and began to count to ten. Tricia ran	271
and hid behind a garbage can. Julie quit counting to ten and began to	285
walk around looking for Tricia. Soon Tricia saw her chance and ran	297
across the lot. She kicked the can as far as she could. "Ah, you got a	313
point," said Julie.	316

Just then Sam and Jon came up the street. When they saw what 329
the girls were playing, they asked if they could join in. Soon other kids 343
from up the street came to play kick-the-can with Tricia and Julie. 357

As Julie and Tricia were walking home that night, Tricia asked 368
Julie a question. "How did you know that other kids would come play 381
kick the can with us?" she asked. "Well, kick-the-can is a really fun 396
game," Julie said. "As soon as you get a game started, others want to 410
join in." Tricia was glad to meet such a wise friend. She did not feel 425
lonely any more. 428